



Big Island Amateur Radio Club

February 2021
Newsletter

Exec Board re-elects NH6ET to guide our club through 2021

At its first meeting of the year, the BIARC Executive Board – as unanimously elected at our November annual general membership meeting – chose William Polhemus, NH6ET, to continue as president. Other officers also stay the same: Jim Huntley, WH6FQI, vice president; Les Hittner, K0BAD, secretary; Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI, treasurer. Other directors for 2021 are Paul Ducasse, WH7BR, FCC custodian; Robert

Schneider, AH6J, and Jim Sugg, AH6AE.

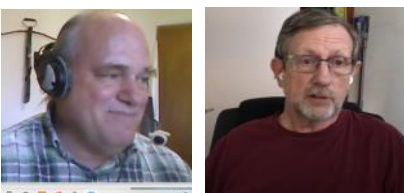
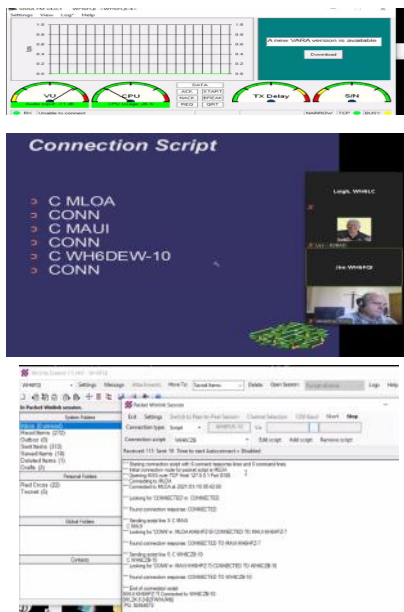
BIARC members are encouraged to sign up for a committee and help strengthen our club. Just let the team know you are interested.

The board meeting preceded our Jan. 9 gathering on Zoom. These days, while we cannot meet in person, we are connecting online. On the second Saturday of each month, the board meets at noon and the membership gathers at 2 p.m.

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At the January meeting, from left: Glenn, AH6IO; Lydia, WH6EXT; Tony, WH6DVI; Jim, AH6AE.



**William Polhemus
NH6ET**

Good Components

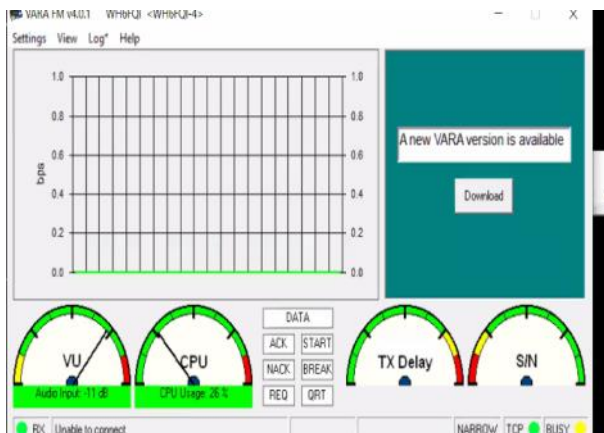
They say, “Buy once, cry once,” and my experience has proven to me that this can be wise advice. Even though we can’t always buy the high end equipment, we can at least try to avoid the equipment that isn’t even living up to its manufacturer’s claims, which your repeater committee has done.

As the club committees, and also individual club members, find equipment that does or doesn’t pass muster, we should share that knowledge with each other. I have one of those that I’d like to share with you today. It’s a brief summary of our results of evaluating two diplexers, which we intend to use to add capabilities to our existing infrastructure, as well as to upcoming projects.

For anyone who does not know, a diplexer is a

The President’s Corner

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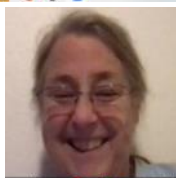
January Zoom sessions ... continued from Page 1

The Zoom link to access the sessions is provided on the BIARC ListServe. The board meetings are always open to all members.

The January club activity was a hands-on intro to how packet radio transmissions via Winlink can provide interisland communications when other modes are unavailable. Huntley and Polhemus demonstrated how small files of emergency traffic and even photos can be transmitted. Gary Schwiter, WH6EPS, also participated in the exercise. We learned about the Paxon Terminal, which can be downloaded for free if you already have Winlink. The guys also demonstrated VARA packet and how info can be transmitted from Hawaii Island to Maui and then to Oahu, and vice versa.



Ron, AJOT;



Peggy,

KE6TIS;

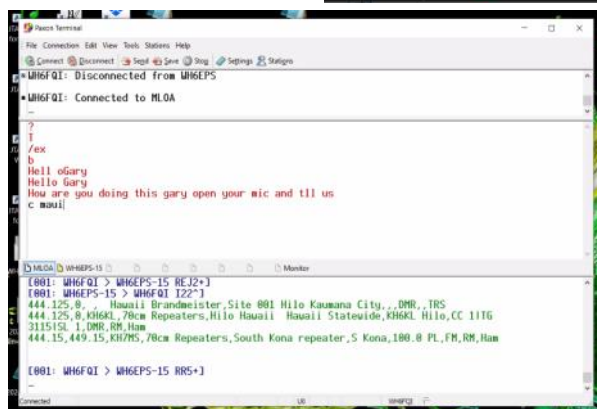


John,

WH6GCD;

Roy,

WH6FYK.



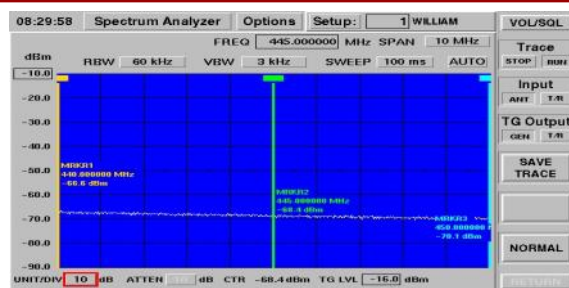
The President's Corner ... continued from Page 1

filtering device which allows multiple signals to occupy the same coaxial cable, so long as they are in different bands, such as separate 2m and 70cm radios sharing one coaxial cable to use a dual band antenna. Or, if you turn it around, having a dual band radio with one antenna port feed separate antennas for each band. Diplexers are often mistaken with duplexers, which typically separate signals in the same band, such as the transmit and receive signals of a repeater. Diplexers are also known as band splitters, which is a broader term. The term 'band splitters' can also include triplexers, which split between three bands, and quadruplexers, which split between four bands.

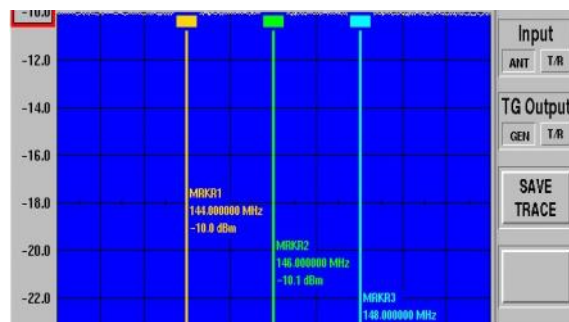
Your repeater committee is working to add 70cm C4FM capability at the Kulani Cone site, but using the same dual band antennas as the existing '76 repeater, which of course is on 2m. This is the perfect application for diplexers! Another great application of diplexers is for cross band repeaters, which we also have in the works.

But, diplexers have a wide range of costs, from the very cheap to the oppressively expensive. Our club takes pride in keeping our dues as low as possible. And, we certainly wouldn't jeopardize that by blowing the entire budget on one diplexer, even though there are some great ones out there that really are that expensive. However, we also don't want to buy too cheaply and end up with poor performance, or worse, damaged equipment due to inadequate isolation. So we rummaged around through everyone's drawers, and found enough samples to borrow and test. We found a winner, but we also found one to avoid.

What makes a diplexer's performance good can be distilled down to just a few metrics. Isolation is perhaps the most important metric. Isolation is the measure of how much signal from one of the ports leaks through to the other. For instance, how much of the 70cm radio's transmission is flooding into the 2m



Comet CF-4160N UHF port isolation



Comet CF-4160N VHF insertion loss

radio's receiver. Predictably this is measured in Decibels (dB.) The ideal diplexer would have infinite isolation with none of the other band's signal leaking over. However, to filter to that extent would make the next metric's measurement unacceptable.

The next metric is the insertion loss. The insertion loss is the measure of how much of the radio's signal passes into its band's port, and out the other side of the diplexer, through what we call the combined port. The energy that isn't transferred through the diplexer is either reflected back out of that radio's port, passed out the other band's port due to poor isolation, or is converted to heat inside the diplexer. In practice it is a mix of all three, but with the vast majority of the lost energy being converted to heat. The more the circuit designer filters between the bands, the higher the isolation, but also the higher the insertion loss. Additionally, with more filtering you start to see positive and negative effects in other metrics such as ripple, skirt sharpness, and overall useable bandwidth, though all of the metrics can be influenced by the quality of the design alone.

The takeaway is that we wanted a diplexer with good isolation and low insertion loss. We wanted as sharp a

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The President's Corner

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skirt as possible, with the least amount of ripple over a useable bandwidth encompassing our 2m amateur radio band on one port, and our 70cm amateur radio band on the other port. And, of course, all this at a reasonable cost.

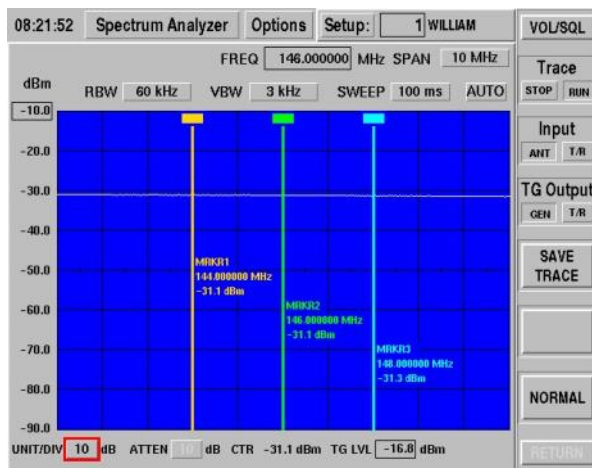
The winner was the Comet CF-1460N. The N simply means that this model is equipped with N type connectors which match most repeater equipment, including all of the club's. This model is available with other connector options, including the rather anachronistic SO-239, ham radio's standard connector which is also known as the 'UHF connector.' Comet, as many manufacturers do, incorrectly labeled the device as a duplexer. However, it indeed meets the contemporary definition of a diplexer.

In the laboratory, the Comet CF-1460N displayed good isolation and low insertion loss. Through handling the device, the case appears better constructed than the pictures led me to believe. I feared that it would feel of being made of cheap and flimsy plastic. However, it actually feels quite sturdy and looks much better made in person than it does in the catalog. The isolation was measured to be between -59.5dB and -62.3dB on the 70cm port, and between -54.5dB and -60.1dB on the 2m port, depending on which end of the band you measured. That's spot on to be better than the advertised 60dB of isolation. The insertion loss was also found to correspond to that claimed by Comet. The 2m port measured about 0.1dB of insertion loss. It was actually so little it was difficult to measure accurately. I had to zoom in the scale on the analyzer and check the calibration carefully to ensure that the readings were not erroneous. They weren't, and the 70cm port was hardly much worse, at about 0.2dB. If you transmitted into the 70cm port at the rated 500 watts, only about 28 watts would be converted to heat or reflected. Because the isolation is indeed as high as Comet advertised, only about 0.0005

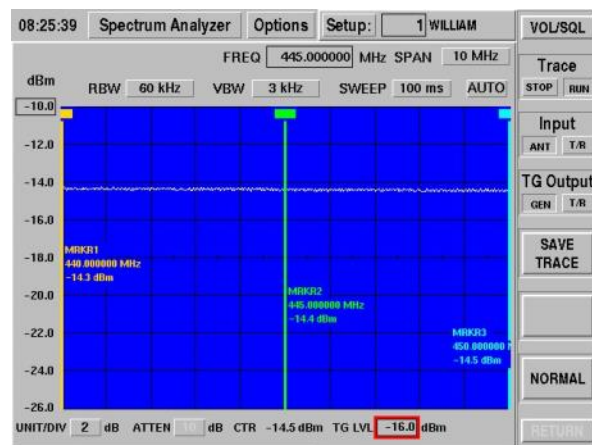
watts would leak over to the 2m port. That is far below what would damage a modern receiver, and orders of magnitude less than what would damage a less modern, less sensitive receiver.

The (one) diplexer we found that we will avoid is the MFJ-916BN. MFJ also incorrectly labeled the device as a duplexer. However, it also meets the contemporary definition of a diplexer. There were high hopes that this device would live up to its claimed specifications, as it would be a very, very cost effective option. However, that was found to be false economy. The same device's isolation fell far short of MFJ's claimed 60dB. The insertion loss was also much higher than the advertised 0.2dB. In fact, if you were to transmit into this device with the rated 300 watts on 70cm, you would likely burn it up if your radio didn't automatically scale back the power from the reflection. The measured 4.5dB of insertion loss means that of that 300 watts, about 200 of those watts would be converted to heat or reflected back to the radio. In addition, the isolation between the ports was so poor at only 17dB that a damaging 6 or more of those watts of that could leak over into the receiver of the 2m radio. That's worse than connecting a coaxial cable between two HTs, and keying one of them up!

I have included some screen shots from my calibrated Aeroflex IFR 2975 analyzer which I used to reproduce the testing results for this article. It's important to note that this analyzer is referenced to a -10dBm level, not a 0dBm level. That means that the measurements in the screenshots are not direct measurements, they are relative measurements, relative to -10dBm. So if you see a measurement of -14.5dBm in the sweep, you have to take the -10dB reference level into consideration. Since we started with a level of -10dBm, the measurement is actually -4.5dBm. Hope



MFJ-916BN VHF port isolation



MFJ-916BN UHF insertion loss

that's makes sense, because it hangs people up all the time.

There's no hiding it. I'll address the fact that I'm still here, writing to you as the club president. I know, I know. I promised not to, a few newsletters ago. I don't entirely know how the board did it, but they convinced me to stay in the role for at least another term. What I do know about their tactics is that they made the case that the club has good components in place in our

board, our committees, and most of all our membership. They made the case to not mess with success. They heard that what I struggle with is the small but time sensitive tasks, such as writing these articles. So, you will be seeing more content from other authors, when I just can't manage to meet the deadlines. Good components work well with each other.

— William — NH6ET

The Micronesian connection

"TABLET PATCH"

Every afternoon I have a schedule with William V63YWR (Currently on 17 meters) who is on the small island of Federai, Ulithi Atoll, Micronesia. His radio of course is operated with solar power. John KH6DLK is responsible for getting radio licenses for a few Micronesian men. Richard, AH7G, did this schedule for many years and would spend hours talking to William and Albert (V63YAH). When Richard could no longer operate on the radio I took

over the schedule. Richard and I got to meet Clifton in Sydney, Australia on one of our many trips. Clifton is the son of William and Andressa. With John's expertise we determined that I could contact Clifton on Messenger using my tablet. Getting his Mom and Dad on the radio and contacting Clifton on my tablet, I can hold the microphone to the tablet allowing Clifton to talk to his parents. Then Clifton can listen to his parents from the radio. I of course can see Clifton but his parents can only hear his voice. On one occasion Clifton was able to get

his brothers from Pohnpei and Guam on the tablet so all three could talk to their parents. When John KH6DLK/V63JB is in Micronesia and the radio conditions are bad we will communicate using our tablets, using Messenger, for face to face communication. John contacts his "family" in Yap every day by Messenger when he is here in Hawaii. The greatest benefit is no long distance charges.

— Barbara Darling — NH7FY

News clips

LICENSE TESTING ON

Zoom — The group supporting Zoom-based Amateur Radio Exams has settled into a weekly testing schedule, Saturdays at 6 p.m. The volunteers will even make accommodations for candidates who have personal scheduling problems. Anyone interested in testing is invited to register online at: <http://hameducation.org>.

LICENSING PREP CLASSES

The same log-on leads to Zoom classes for students interested in acquiring Technician or General licenses. Four Technician classes are planned starting Feb. 10, Feb. 22, April 12, and Sept. 20. One General class begins Feb. 25. For details click the "Classes" button on <http://hameducation.org>.

WINLINK TRAINING

Winlink E-mail Training is being offered by ARES. Spokesman Van Malan (NH7IT) planned to begin in January. He says: "Many of you have probably heard about Winlink email. This digital means of sending email over Amateur Radio bands is gaining popularity in the emergency communication field. The American Red Cross recognizes Winlink as an important means of sending mes-

sages. (See <https://tinyurl.com/y3jzsvcl>) Our ARES leadership would like to extend the opportunity for you to learn and practice sending Winlink messages. We plan to have a weekly practice and learning session ... I plan to send to each member who joins a practice assignment that you have a week or more to complete. Please send me your call and starting soon I will send to you via Winlink your weekly assignment. If you are new to Winlink, ask for help and I will send you instructions on how to start learning about Winlink or you can visit www.winlink.org."

CW TRAINING — Alan Maenchen (AD6E/KH6TU) reminds that he is looking for Hawaii Amateurs interested in acquiring CW skills. Alan is a certified instructor on the CWops program. Register for a class on, <http://CWOPS.org>. This is a well-run training program that Alan introduced to Hawaii. One of his students, Joe Tabrah (KH6FHI), is now also a certified instructor. Contact Alan at ad6e@arrl.net for more information.
— *ARRL Pacific Section Section Manager Joseph Speroni, AH0A ah0a@arrl*.

WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY

The IARU Administrative Council has chosen "Amateur Radio: Home but Never Alone" as the theme for World Amateur Radio Day on Sunday, April 18. With the pandemic driving adoption of physical isolation to reduce the spread of the virus, the worldwide amateur radio community has responded positively to overcome the resulting social isolation. On-air activity was at an unprecedented level through the end of 2020, with record-breaking numbers of entries in the major contests. Officials say, "This theme offers the opportunity for our member societies to tailor meaningful messages to the general public about the values of the global amateur radio community."

RATPAC

VIDEO

LIBRARY

OPENS — The long-awaited list of past RATPAC video presentations is here. Please see the email below for the link. — 73,
Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI, Chair, BIARC Public Service Communication Committee — *From: RATPAC@groups.io on behalf of RATPAC / K7REX* (regarding the Jan. 13 RATPAC Zoom presentation on Ham Radio online meeting resources by presenter Anthony Luscre, K8ZT RATPAC, who has put together a list of past presentations: <http://tiny.cc/ratpac-list>.) During this pandemic, a lot of clubs and other Amateur Radio organizations are meeting online. This presentation will provide useful resources



for online ham meetings.

This meeting will be OPEN for all to attend. Please feel free to invite others.

Join our SEC-ARES group for announcements and discussions: <https://groups.io/g/SEC-ARES>

Join our NewHams group for same announcements, different discussions: <https://groups.io/g/NewHams>

Join our RATPAC group for same announcement, much less discussion: <https://groups.io/g/RATPAC> Please be sure to include your name and call sign.

GET READY FOR ORLANDO QSO PARTY

Orlando HamCation will sponsor a HamCation QSO Party over the Feb. 13-14 weekend (UTC), "to create a fun way for amateurs to celebrate the Orlando HamCation experience over the air." The 12-hour event will be staged on the weekend of HamCation, which was to have hosted the ARRL National Convention, now rescheduled for 2022. "The QSO party will replicate the camaraderie and social experience of attending HamCation and provide a way to have fun on the radio, since HamCation 2021 will not be held due to COVID-19," coordinators said. The QSO Party will run from 1500 UTC on Feb. 13 until 0300 UTC on Feb. 14. It will be a CW and SSB operating event on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Any station may work any other station.

VOLCANO CERT Radio Check

Net — All amateur radio operators are invited to check in at 9 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month, says Doug Wilson, KH7DQ, communications coordinator for the Volcano area's Community Emergency Response Team.

"We also practice connecting to our alternate frequency and follow this format: 1) Net starts promptly at 9 a.m. on 147.260 MHz (pl 103.5 on the input only, i.e., transmit only). 2) At the end of the regular two-round net on the Volcano Repeater, we QSY to 442.150 MHz (Kulani Mauka; pl 100.0) for check-ins and signal reports. We then close the net on this frequency.

"The purpose of the net is to 1) check our equipment, 2) check signals from

various locations, 3) have a short open discussion in a "normal" two-round net format, and 4) practice switching to our alternate emergency frequency.

"Everyone should make sure their radios are programmed with the above frequencies, offsets and pl tones. See you on the air each first Saturday of the month."

Doug always encourages CERT volunteers who are not radio operators to consider getting a ham radio license.

As he advises, "In an emergency, this may be the only means of communications available. Our next Technician License Preparation Class via Zoom begins on April 21."

For more information, contact Doug.

PEPEEKEO REPEATER NET OPEN TO ALL

Hams in the greater Laupahoehoe area invite all amateur radio operators to sign into their East Hawaii Radio Training Net (EHRTN) every fourth Sunday of the month at 7 p.m. on the BIARC Pepeekeo Repeater (146.880).

News clips

Hawaii: 80 nodes and up

THE LATEST ON HAWAII AREDN MESH NODES

— In 2020, more than 80 AREDN MESH nodes were deployed in Hawaii. As done on the mainland, Amateurs connect their stations via a private Amateur Radio network. Here's a link to the current Hawaii network, <https://tinyurl.com/y56ox3wu>

The AREDN MESH network is self-configuring. A node added to the network broadcasts its identity to all the other nodes. Installation is truly well designed and easy to use. The ability to deploy go kits with AREDN MESH radios that are added dynamically makes it one more digital tool to pass traffic. Mastering the technology allows us to build networks around our islands. We can be less dependent on access to high places.

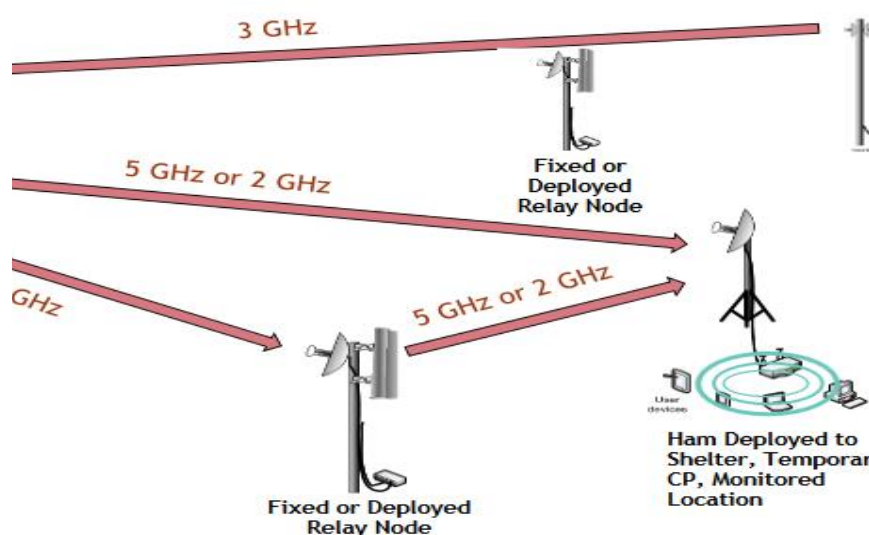
Hawaii AREDN MESH is not an Internet ISP. We can ring our islands with many short hops that provide multiple paths from one node to another. The basic component needed for a short hop is the AREDN MESH router, a MikroTik hAP. The term hAP stands for home Access Point. It is really just an Internet home

router that has been "flashed" to operate in the Amateur Radio private network. As Amateur Radio equipment goes, it is inexpensive. About \$50 on Amazon!

With a hAP connected via Internet, Amateurs can begin learning about the Hawaii network. The next step is to add a microwave link to become more independent of Internet. A pair of MikroTik SXT 5.8 GHz radios can be added to access a "sector node" in his area or interconnect two Amateur's stations via microwave. One of these can be had for about \$70.

The IEEE recently hosted a ZOOM meeting that brought a lot of information to Hawaii Amateurs. Stephen Minakami (NH6XL) set up the meeting. We are fortunate that he was able to arrange a member of the AREDN MESH organization, Orv Beach (W6BI), who gave a great overview of mainland networks and the hardware and software components building the network. Here is a YouTube link to Orv's talk, https://youtu.be/qVM4W_I8mx0

Following his talk, Gessie Alpuerto (WH6AV) gave an overview of AREDN MESH



AREDN MESH network diagram, courtesy of Andre Hansen, K6AH, QSO Today.

in Hawaii. As of now AllStar repeaters and seventeen Hawaii gateways are already connected via Hawaii AREDN MESH. It is amazing how well developed the network has become.

One of Gessie's focuses has been interconnecting AllStar and Winlink gateways on the Big Island. hAP, SXT and point to point hardware has been donated to BIARC members to get the network started. He is working with Oahu as well as with his own island.

Jim Pilgram (NH6HI) is driving the progress on Kauai. This is truly an all-Hawaii project. Here is a link to Gessie's YouTube, https://youtu.be/U2_oHtJ2Nn4.

Hawaii ARES now supports Winlink and AREDN MESH use in its exercises. Previously Clem Jung (KH7HO) made arrangements with the Hawaii Amateur Radio Emergency Digital Radio Network, Inc. (HEARDn.org) a 501C3 corporation, to provide audio adapters and VARA

software licenses at a reduced cost to interested Amateurs. He now also has HEARDn support for AR

EDN MESH components. If interested in adding digital modes to your Amateur Radio station, contact Clem to see how ARES can help Amateurs interested in either of these digital technologies.

— **ARRL Pacific Section Section Manager: Joseph Speroni, AH0A**
ah0a@arrl.org

QSO TODAY VIRTUAL HAM EXPO RETURNING IN MARCH

— The QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will return March 13-14 for a full 48 hours, QSO Today host Eric Guth, 4Z1UG/WA6IGR, announced.

ARRL is a QSO Today Expo Partner. Guth said the inaugural QSO Today Expo last August attracted more than 16,000 attendees, and he anticipates that

the March 2021 event will be even more successful.

The upcoming QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will feature new speakers and presenters, panel discussions, and kit-building workshops among other activities.

Guth pointed out that attendees can log in from anywhere. While he anticipates a

good turnout by those who typically attend such ham radio events, the virtual Expo also offers an opportunity for those concerned about pandemic travel restrictions as well as for those who don't typically attend in-person events.

"At our last Expo, we found that 60% of attendees don't go to in-person national conferences, and 40% don't attend state or

local events," Guth said, noting that distance and the high cost of travel and lodging were the most oft-cited reasons.

Registration is required, and to help cover the costs of staging this event, there will be a charge to attend. Advance tickets are \$10 (\$12.50 at "door") and include entry for the live, two-day show as well to the 30-day on-demand period.

BIARC Public Service Communications Committee Update

December 2020- January 2021

Hawaii County Siren Nets:

The monthly "siren net" is held in Hawaii County on the first working day of each month. January 4th was the 4th time that this net was held on the Hawaii / Mainland AllStar network, with the net opening at 11:25 AM. A separate siren net continues to be held on DMR, talkgroup 31153 starting at 11:45 AM. For more information on the DMR net, contact Blake Stene, KH7MS via email at blakestene@gmail.com or visit his web page at <http://kh7ms.com/> for information on DMR. Stations may participate in either net. Use the method that works best based on your location and equipment. Visit the NH6TU.org website for more details. Click on the "Adopt-A-Siren" link to see a list of stations participating and siren locations in need of volunteers for reporting.

We suggest that volunteers travel to a location near the siren you will be reporting on. Before the siren net, please make sure to check your signal quality into the network. When net control asks for your report, respond with your siren location and the words *working*, *nothing heard*, or *malfunction*. If your response is malfunction give a concise description of the problem. These reports will be summarized and submitted to Hawaii County Civil Defense after the nets conclude.

If you wish to adopt a siren location to report on, or add a siren location that is missing from the list, please contact Bev Gable, KH7LM. We are also looking for volunteers to act as net control on the Hawaii / Mainland AllStar Siren Net. Bev may be reached via email at bevgable@gmail.com.

ARES Update:

Congratulation to Paul Ducasse, WH7BR. He has volunteered to accept the position of South Hawaii County District Emergency Coordinator. As an ARRL affiliated club, the BIARC PSCC embraces the opportunity to assist ARES in publishing and supporting their activities.

Introduction to RATPAC:

Radio Amateur Training Planning and Activities Committee consists of ARRL section managers and appointed field leadership. They host nationwide Amateur Radio Zoom presentations twice-a-week, Wednesdays on general radio topics and Thursdays on amateur radio emergency communications.

RATPAC Groups.io announcement and discussion groups are public groups. You can click on the website for each group to view the messages, or join a group to receive messages directly via email as they are posted.

- SEC-ARES groups.io is for ARES and disaster communications discussion groups.
<https://groups.io/g/SEC-ARES>
- NewHams groups.io is for New Hams discussion groups.
<https://groups.io/g/NewHams>
- RATPAC groups.io is a general Amateur Ham Radio discussions.
<https://groups.io/g/RATPAC>

Join any of these groups by sending a blank email message to the group you wish to join. Address your email to one of the following email addresses:

SEC-ARES+subscribe@groups.io, NewHams+subscribe@groups.io, or RATPAC+subscribe@groups.io.

Why so many? (*Explanation of Groups from Dan Marler, K7REX:*)

SEC-ARES was created for ARRL Section Emergency Coordinators (SEC), as the name suggests. However, at the requests of several Section Managers and SECs we open it up to include everyone involved with Amateur Radio disaster communications. Being inclusive has proven to be beneficial and educational for everyone regardless of their group affiliations.

NewHams was created for those involved with new and wannabe hams. This was intended to be focused on but not limited to youth. At the time NewHams was created, we were developing an on-line NASA RockSat Ham Youth in space program (<https://vimeo.com/456696497>) through the University of Puerto Rico that would have included young hams nationwide. Due to COVID-19 restrictions at the university, that program has been placed on hold. Meanwhile, we continue to look for other ham youth programs to fill that need during this pandemic, with some possibilities for 2021.

RATPAC is our most recent addition. It was actually created in October for later use; several hams discovered RATPAC, and with it not being locked down, they joined. RATPAC is intended for those not involved in disaster communications or ham youth. Discussions on those groups.io can generate a lot of email for those not interested, so we needed a third option. Please keep in mind that anyone can join all of the groups or pick which one suits them best.

RATPAC announcements will be the same on all three, so the difference is the group discussions that take place.

ARES / American Red Cross (ARC-EmComm-Training@groups.io)

The nationwide ARC Winlink training exercises are continuing in 2021. The first exercise was held on Thursday, January 7th. In January, we will repeat the Winlink Thursday sessions that took place last fall to give everyone a chance to review and to allow our new subscribers to get up to speed. After that review, Winlink Thursday becomes a monthly exercise taking place on the second Thursday of the month beginning February 9th. We will present new information to help prepare for the upcoming Spring Drill. Look for more information to be posted in a few days. ***The spring drill will be held May 8th, on World Red Cross Day.***

ARC-EmComm-Training is an unofficial mailing list / message board with the purpose of getting the word out concerning news and upcoming events of the Red Cross EmComm Training group. Over 1,200 amateur radio operators have already subscribed. To subscribe, send a blank email to ARC-EmComm-Training+subscribe@groups.io.

Tony Kitchen
WH6DVI
Chair, Public Service Communication Committee

Education and Outreach Committee Report

January 2021

Looking into 2021

1. There are still copies of the 2020 **Member Information Booklet**. Leslie Hittner will print updates to these copies for 2021 at no cost to the club. Updated copies can then be distributed after the January 2021 Board meeting. At that time, the board can determine the method of distribution (In person or USPS). Distribution of this document is currently by electronic modes only and pickup of paper versions is not anticipated again until in-place meetings become possible. The committee would like to make the remaining paper copies of this document available for pickup by any member whenever the BIARC Share Library is open.

Because the development of electronic distribution methods has been improved, The Education and Outreach Committee would prefer NOT to print and distribute paper copies of the **Member Information Booklet** in the future.

2. Tony Kitchen continues to work on an upgraded version of the **BIARC website** and a switchover to the new website should take place during 2021. Anticipated changes will make it easier for the website to be updated frequently to reflect the status and activities of BIARC and its members.

Individual committees will be able to manage content on the website that is relevant to their committees. Individual members will be able to manage their membership information, renew memberships, and make donations to the club – all by means of the website.

3. **Technician License Classes** will continue by Zoom and in-place classes will resume when possible. On-line General Class courses are being linked on the BIARC website. The committee may investigate the idea of offering additional classes designed to generally enhance the knowledge of radio electronics and not targeted to a specific license class.
4. The committee would like to begin to submit articles describing recent monthly activities and operating events to the **Hawaii Tribune-Herald** as a means of attracting people to the hobby. These stories would be published after the events.
5. Leslie Hittner will make the **BIARC Lending Library** available in his carport beginning next Saturday morning and will do so for at least 3 months. If, after that period, it has not been utilized by any BIARC members, or if in-place activities can resume, the carport availability will be discontinued and the library will be held in storage. It is hoped that an on-site storage location can be arranged when in-place activities do resume.

BIARC Board Meeting

January 09, 2021

A. Begin Meeting

- 1 **Call to Order:** Outgoing President William Polhemus called the meeting to order at 1205.
- 2 **Quorum Call: Board Members:** *Ducasse, **Hittner**, *Huntley, **Kitchen**, **Schneider**, **Sugg**, **Polhemus**
Guest: *Uchida, Kunishige
* Arrived after Call to Order.
- 3 **Minutes of the 12/13/2020 Board meeting:** Polhemus **moved** and Kitchen **seconded** to approve the minutes as published. The motion **passed** with no objections.
- 4 **Treasurer's Reports (attached):** Polhemus **moved** and Hittner **seconded** to approve the Treasurer's Report subject to audit. The motion **passed** with no objections.

B. Immediate Business

- 1 **Election of Executive Board Officers:** After some discussion, Kitchen **moved** and Ducasse **seconded** that the following slate of officers be elected by unanimous consent:

President: William Polhemus

Vice President: James Huntley

Secretary: Leslie Hittner

Treasurer: Tony Kitchen

The motion **passed** with no objections.

C. Committee Reports

Polhemus **moved** and Kitchen **seconded** to leave the committee structure as it is this month and to address committee membership, chairs, and other issues next month. The motion **passed** with no objections.

Polhemus **moved** and Hittner **seconded** to accept the resignation of Mel Uchida from the Programs Committee. The motion **passed** with no objections.

- 1 Digital Systems - 2021 Goals & Objectives – Huntley

Polhemus **moved** and Huntley **seconded** to assign Jim Sugg to the Digital Systems Committee. The motion **passed** without objection.

- 2 Education and Outreach - 2021 Goals & Objectives (Report attached) - Hittner

- 3 Operating Activities - 2021 Goals & Objectives (No Report) - Kunishige

- 4 Program - 2021 Goals & Objectives - Board Vice-President, Huntley

Polhemus **moved** and Kitchen **seconded** to assign Robert Schneider to the Programs Committee. The motion **passed** with no objection.

- 5 Public Service Communications - 2021 Goals & Objectives (Report attached) - Kitchen
- 6 Voice Repeaters - 2021 Goals & Objectives – Polhemus

D. Old Business

- 1 Status of MOU with Hawaii Department of Water Supply – Polhemus

E. New Business

- 1 2021 Executive Board Goals and Objectives – Polhemus
 - Streamlining board functions.
 - Build membership/marketing.
 - Restructure monthly activities to better accommodate the “new normal” hybrid format and hands-on activities.
 - Record meetings and include a video or audio recording with the minutes to streamline the writing of meeting minutes.
 - Add a social media presence on platforms visited by younger people.
 - Incorporate a unified database that is valid for multiple platforms (website, Excel, etc.) for treasurer membership records functions.
 - Be sure that members are interested in our monthly programs by keeping a rounded view of Amateur Radio functions and interests in our program presentations.
 - Stay connected to EMCOMM served agencies.
 - Increasing networking with all County Government officials and build relationships.

- 2 Approve 2021 Budget (Attached) – Kitchen

Hittner **moved** and Polhemus **seconded** to approve the 2021 budget as presented by Kitchen. The motion **passed** with no objections.

F. Other Business

- 1 **Publishing deadlines for the BIARC Newsletter:**

Polhemus **moved** and Hittner **seconded** that the BIARC Newsletter publishing deadline shall be Midnight HST on the Monday preceding the Board Meeting and Program activity. The motion **passed** without opposition.

Polhemus **moved** and Kitchen **seconded** that the item submission deadline shall be one week (seven days) prior to the publishing deadline. The motion **passed** without objection.

- 2 **BIARC Live Net roster added to BIARC website:**

Referred to Education and Outreach Committee.

- 3 Ducasse: Discussion of access tones/methods of 443.575 Mauna Loa repeater. Current settings CVTCSS= 100 Hz with very long squelch tail to accommodate VARA experiments. There was also a question about how that system is listed on the Website.

G. Adjourn

There being no further business, Polhemus Adjourned the meeting at 1339.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie D. Hittner

Leslie Hittner, Secretary

Enc: Written Reports:
2020 BIARC Disbursements
2020-12-31 BIARC Operating Statement
2021-01-09 BIARC Treasurer's Report
2021 BIARC Draft Budget & Operating Statement
2021-01-09 Education & Outreach Committee Report
2021-01-09 PSCC Report

lhittner@hbc.com

From: Tony Elias <TonyEliasHi@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 00:59
To: Bob Schneider; Mel Uchida; Paul Decasse; AH6AE; Jim Huntley; Les Hittner; William Polhemus; Tony Kitchen
Subject: Treasurer's report: Jan 2021

Treasurers Report: (As of 1/6/2021)

- Since the December report, we have no new members. The final member count for 2020 is 97.
- BIARC total disbursements for 2020 were \$1436.20. There were no additional disbursements since the last report.
- We have received 2021 dues payments for a total of 36 members. Dues and donations collected for 2021 is \$1,106 to date.

Cash Balances: (As of: 1/6/2021)

Bank of Hawaii Balance	\$3,958.34
Deposit Pending	\$85.00
Namecheap Balance (Website Host)	\$11.96
PayPal Account Balance	\$571.54

Fund Balances:

Repeater fund	\$1,371.97
Emergency Reserves	\$1,000.00
General Fund	\$2,254.87
Total Funds	\$4,626.84

Tony Kitchen
WH6DVI
2020 BIARC Treasurer

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

2020 Disbursements

As of: 12/31/2020

<u>Check No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Purpose:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>	<u>Comment</u>
1806	01/22/20	Hawaii VOAD	Contribution	\$25.00	
1807	01/28/20	William Polhemus	Reimb.-Repeater Equipment	\$207.00	
1808	02/08/20	Leslie Hittner	Reimb.-Membership Booklet Printing	\$162.33	
1809	03/15/20	Mercer Consumer	Insurance Policy#EQP-723856103	\$186.85	
1810		VOID			
1811	05/20/20	Mercer Consumer	Insurance Policy#RGL-6599010300	\$323.20	
1812	06/10/20	U.S. Postal Service	P.O. Box Fee – 6 Months	\$95.00	
	06/28/20	NameCheap	Website DNS & Hosting	\$38.04	\$50 payment from Paypal To Namecheap.com Credit Remaining: \$11.96
1813	07/20/20	Marvin Kitchen	Reimb.-Field Day Prizes	\$70.50	
E-payment	08/03/20	DCCA	DCCA Annual Business eFiling Fee	\$3.50	
1814	09/12/20	William Polhemus	Equipment-Diamond X50a (2)	\$229.78	
1815	12/08/20	U.S. Postal Service	P.O. Box Fee – 6 Months	\$95.00	
Total				\$1,436.20	